

Table 9: Environmental Standards for Mercury

Media	Mercury Standard	Explanation
Ambient Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.144 u/l for ingestion of both water and aquatic organisms; • 0.146 u/l for ingestion of only aquatic organism. • 2.4 u/l for freshwater acute exposure; • 0.012 u/l for freshwater chronic exposure; • 2.1 u/l for marine acute exposure; • 0.025 u/l for marine chronic exposure. (50 FR 30791)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established under Clean Water Act §304(a) • Ambient water criteria varies by state (may change with GLI)
Drinking Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum contaminant level = .002 mg/l (40 CFR 141.62) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum contaminant level for mercury established under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ambient standard. 	
Sludge	Limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 mg/kg (dry wt) and 17 kg/hectare cumulative loading for sludge applied on agricultural, forest and publicly accessible lands. • 17 mg/kg (dry wt) and .85 kg/hectare annual loading rate for sludge sold or distributed for application to a lawn or home garden. • 57 mg/kg (dry wt) for sludge sold or distributed for other types of land disposal • 100 g/kg (dry wt) for sludge disposed in lined or unlined facilities (40 CFR 503). 	
Compost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No federal standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota sets mercury concentration limits in compost.
Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 ug/g (1 mg/kg or 1 ppm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA action level for methyl mercury. ug/g (1 mg/kg or 1 ppm)
Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 ug/l 	
Bottled Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .002 mg/l (21 CFR 103.35) 	
Water-level of detect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .2 ug/l (200 mg/l) = recommended method 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA-approved method to detect Hg in water. Lower detection methods are available, but not yet approved by EPA.
Hazardous Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCLP = .2 mg/l or .2 ppm (40 CFR 261.24, 264) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land disposal (Subtitle D, nonhazardous landfills) prohibited unless leachate contains less than .2 mg/l.